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Forty-eighth session
(Provisional Agenda item 5(c))

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. Since its forty-seventh session the Commission and its secretariat, in response to Commission decision O (45), have further strengthened their cooperation and coordination of activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, including bodies of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. This cooperation and coordination continues to be an important feature of the Commission's methods of work to ensure the optimum use of resources and expertise and to avoid duplication of activities. The wide range of organizations with which ECE cooperates reflects the dual capacity of the ECE as a United Nations programme and a regional body cooperating closely with other European institutions.

2. This note is divided into three parts. The first provides a detailed account of ECE's cooperation with organizations and institutions with which the ECE is encouraged to intensify its cooperation and coordination under the terms of decision O (45). They are as follows: the European Community, OECD, EBRD, IMF, the World Bank and GATT. The second part presents in the form of a synoptic table ECE's cooperation with other international and intergovernmental organizations. Part three contains a list of non-governmental organizations which have participated actively in the work of the ECE since the forty-seventh session.

GE.93-20355

PART I

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary paid another visit to the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels, where he met with the Vice-President responsible for Economic and Financial Affairs, the Commissioner responsible for Transport and Environment, and a number of senior officials.

On another occasion he had personal contacts with the newly appointed Vice-Presidents and Commissioners responsible for External Relations.

ENVIRONMENT

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities

- Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems
- Workshop on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
- Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
- Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Working Group on Abatement Strategies
- Working Group on Effects
- Steering Body to EMEP
- Working Group on Technology
- International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
- Task Force on Emission Inventories
- Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (CEC sponsored model comparison exercises)
- Task Force on Economic Aspects of Abatement Strategies
- Task Force on Emission Projections
- EMEP Workshop on Measurements of Nitrogen-containing Compounds
- Working Group on Environment for Europe

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Preparation for a Report on the State of the Environment in Europe
- Task Force on an environmental action programme
- Task Force to assist countries in transition in the implementation of the ECE Convention on Industrial Accidents

TRANSPORT

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities

- Inland Transport Committee
- Principal Working Party on Road Transport
- Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the AETR Agreement
- Principal Working Party on Rail Transport

- Ad hoc Meeting on the Facilitation of Border Crossings in International Rail Transport
- Principal Working Party on Inland Water Transport
- Working Party on Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation
- Ad hoc Group of Experts on Inland Waterways Infrastructure
- Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
- Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
- Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy
- Meeting of Experts on Noise
- Meeting of Experts on General Safety Provisions
- Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
- Working Party on Combined Transport
- Working Party on Transport Statistics
- Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
- Workshop on Market adaptation of the inland navigation industry in eastern and central Europe and its integration into an all-European transport system (Budapest, Hungary)
- Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Motorway Working Group
- G-24 Group: ad hoc group on transport

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Infrastructure networks
- Revision of the 1958 Agreement
- Preparation of a study on the requirements of inland water transport for combined transport services
- Establishment of the European Network of Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)
- Preparation of a Workshop on Problems Concerning the Organization of a Unified Inland Navigation Market in Europe
- Revision of the AETR Agreement

Other cooperation with EC:

- Steering Committee on the follow-up to the Pan-European Transport Conference
- Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (ECE, EC, ECMT)

STATISTICS

Eurostat has participated in the following ECE activities

- Statistical metadata (METIS)
- International standards for statistical electronic data interchange (EDI)
- Statistics of the hidden economy

- Agricultural statistics
- Statistics of services
- Statistics of household income
- Consumer prices
- European Comparison Programme
- Migration statistics
- Population and housing censuses
- Statistics of women
- Human settlements statistics
- Energy statistics
- Water quality statistics
- Wastes and recycling statistics
- Environmental economics
- Specific methodological issues of environment statistics
- Meetings of the Bureau of the CES

ECE has participated in the following activities of Eurostat:
- Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes
- Development of international standards for statistical EDI
- Revision of the European System of Accounting
- Migration statistics
- Environment statistics
- Population censuses

ECE has held working level consultations with Eurostat on:
- Promotion of coordination of international statistical work (Joint Programme Review)
- Statistical metadata
- Migration statistics
- Energy statistics
- Development of an International Environmental Data Service (IEDS).
- Development of a format for the joint presentation of ECE-OECD-Eurostat work programmes in Statistics

Other cooperation with Eurostat:
- Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe
- Tripartite Intersecretariat Working Group on Coordination of Statistical Activities by International Organizations in Central and East European Countries, with Eurostat and OECD.

TRADE FACILITATION

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:
- Eurostat Working Group of MD6 (EDIFACT/Statistics)
- Various meetings with DG.XII on EDIFACT development.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Senior Economic Advisers

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Preparation of a project on Industrial Restructuring in Central and Eastern Europe

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Current developments and short-term prospects in the transition countries
- Problems of and progress in the transition to the market economy in central and eastern Europe
- Provision and exchange of data on developments in central and eastern Europe

Other cooperation with the European Community:

- ECE regularly supplies several European Community departments with its analytical documents already at their pre-publication stage
- The European Community supplies the ECE secretariat with information concerning the assistance supplied by the Commission and its member countries to the economies in transition.

ENERGY

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Committee on Energy
- Steering Committee, Energy Efficiency 2000 Project
- Working Party on Gas
  Workshop on the Market Adaptation of the Coal Industry (Tirgu Jiu, Romania)
- Working Party on Electric Power

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- G-24 Working Group on Energy
- Negotiating Conference on a European Energy Charter (various plenary sessions, Brussels).

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- PHARE/TACIS financing
- Contribution of ECE to implementation of the European Energy Charter

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities

- Committee on the Development of Trade

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Working Party on the Chemical Industry

- Second Workshop on Rehabilitation Engineering: REHAB-2
- Working Party on Steel
- Meeting of Experts on Steel Statistics
- Meeting of Experts on the Steel Market
- Ad hoc Meeting on the Current Market Developments in the Iron and Steel Industry
- Ad hoc meeting for the Study on Steel Product Quality and Maximum Utilization of Scrap
- Ad hoc Meeting for the Study on Problems arising from the Use of Iron and Steel Scrap
- Workshop on the Restructuring of the Romanian Steel Industry (Bucharest, Romania)
- Seminar on the Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition Towards Market Economy Conditions (Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland)
- Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on Metallurgy and Ecology
- Review of the Steel Industries in Countries in Transition
- Senior Advisers on Science and Technology

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Statistics - Assistance to countries in transition
- Steel Market developments
- Programme of activities

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Committee on Agriculture
- Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, and its Meetings of Experts on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and of Meat
- Symposium on Product Quality in the Agri-food Sector
- FAO/ECE Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe
- Timber Committee
- Ad hoc Meeting to Improve the Collection and Dissemination of Forest and Forest Products Statistics

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Agro-Industrial and Forestry Research and Technological days (Exhibition and Conference) of the DG XII
- Standing Forestry Committee

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Revision of UN/ECE Standards for perishable produce
- Harmonization of statistical questionnaires on agriculture sent by various international organizations (inter-secretariat working group IWG/AGRI)
- Revision of the Customs Nomenclature and Tarification of Heading 44.03 of the Harmonized System
- Establishment of a unified framework and database for forest fire statistics
- Co-operation in setting up an information system for the Forestry Sector (EFICS)

Other cooperation with the European Community:

- Informal meeting on possibilities for cooperation in assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition (DG I, Directorate for the PHARE Programme).

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Workshop on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Consultation on housing statistics

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary met with the Secretary-General of OECD as well as several senior officials of the organization. Agency (IEA).

ENVIRONMENT

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities

- Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems
- Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Task Force on Emission Projections
- Task Force on Economic Aspects of Abatement Strategies
- Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics
- Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
- Working Group on Environment for Europe
- The three Workshops organized in cooperation with OECD mentioned below

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:

- Environment Policy Committee
- Pollution Prevention and Control Group
- Air Management Policy Group
- Group on Economic and Environment Policy Integration
- Group on Environmental Performance
- Mission on Environmental Performance of Norway

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:

- Preparation of the second ad hoc Meeting on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals
- Extension of the system of country environmental performance reviews to the entire ECE region

Other cooperation with OECD:

Meetings under the auspices of the ECE organized in cooperation with OECD

- Workshop on Costing Techniques for Environmental Policies

- Workshop on the Implementation of OECD Good Laboratory Practice Principles and Compliance Therewith
- Workshop on Economic Restructuring and the Environment

TRANSPORT

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Committee of Experts on Dangerous Goods

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Workshop on certain aspects of the classification of chemicals
- Expert Group on Target Road Safety Programme

STATISTICS

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Statistics of the hidden economy
- Agricultural statistics
- Statistics of services
- Statistics of household income
- European Comparison Programme
- Labour Statistics
- Migration statistics
- Statistics of women
- Energy statistics (OECD/IEA)
- Water quality statistics
- Environmental economics
- Meetings of the Bureau of the CES

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Statistics of services
- Working Party on SNA
- Working Party on Employment and Unemployment

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Promotion of coordination of international statistical work (Joint Programme Review)
- Development of a format for the joint presentation of ECE-OECD-Eurostat work programmes in statistics

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe
- Tripartite Intersecretariat Working Group on Coordination of Statistical Activities by International Organizations in Central and East European Countries, with OECD and Eurostat.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Meetings of financial experts on central and eastern Europe
- Second Workshop on Trade Issues Arising in the Transition Process
- Group of Economic Experts on Environment

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:

- Economic developments and prospects in central and eastern Europe
- Problems of and progress in transition to the market economy
- Statistics of the transition countries
- Financial situation in the transition countries
- Labour productivity in the western market economies

Other cooperation with OECD:

- Close cooperation with the OECD based Centre for Cooperation with the European Economies in Transition
- Exchange of reports on economic developments in transition countries at their preliminary and final stages.

ENERGY

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Working Party on Coal
- Meeting of Experts on the Transport and Storage of Gas
- Various meetings of GREENTIE (Greenhouse Gas Technology Information Exchange)
- Working Party on Electric Power
- Symposium on Opencast Coal Mining and the Environment (Nottingham, United Kingdom)
- Workshop on the Recovery and End-Use of Coal-Bed Methane (Katowice, Poland)

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD/IEA:

- Washington Conference, Energy Group Meeting (Paris)

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD/IEA on:

- IEA Coal Research (London)

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities

- Committee on the Development of Trade

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:

- Technical meeting on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities

- Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation
- Working Party on Steel
- Meeting of Experts on the Steel Market
- Meeting of Experts on Steel Statistics
- Seminar on Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition to Market-economy Conditions
- Preparatory meeting for the Seminar on Metallurgy and Ecology
- Meeting of secretariats on Steel Statistics
- Senior Advisers on Science and Technology

- Ad hoc Meeting for the Study on Problems arising from the Use of Iron and Steel Scrap

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- WP No. 9 of the Industry Committee, Industrial Statistics

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Joint ECE/OECD questionnaires
- Exchange of databases
- Back-to-back meetings on statistics concerning engineering industries and automation
- Steel statistics: collection of information, investments and capacities
- Programme and activities - standardization of steel statistics
- Topics of Seminars (steel)
- Science and technology statistics in the economies in transition

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Following OECD's discontinuance of its statistical publication on the chemical industry in 1980, ECE has been producing the only comprehensive annual statistics on the chemical industry
- R & D statistics

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Committee on Agriculture
- Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, and its Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Committee for Agriculture
- Working Party on Meat and Dairy Products
- OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables
- Workshop on technology and sustainable agriculture
- Ad hoc Group on East/West Economic Relations in Agriculture

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Harmonization of statistical questionnaires on agriculture sent by various international organizations (Intersecretariat working group IWG/AGRI)

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Exchange of information on statistical matters concerning timber

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- 7th Conference on Urban and Regional Research

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Group of Experts on Urban Affairs

- International Conference on Economic, Social and Environmental Problems of Cities
- Group on Urban Affairs

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary paid a visit to the EBRD in London, heading a joint UN delegation which also included representatives of DESD and UNDP. He met with the President of the EBRD as well as with several senior officials of the Bank.

TRANSPORT

EBRD has participated in the following ECE activities

- Workshop on Market adaptation of the inland navigation industry in central and eastern Europe and its integration into an all-European transport system (Budapest, Hungary)

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

EBRD has participated in the following ECE activities

- Round table discussion on the conditions for economic recovery in central and eastern Europe

ECE has participated in the following activities of EBRD:

- Conference on East European Trade Policy Issues

ECE has held working level consultations with EBRD on:

- Current economic developments and short-term prospects of the transition countries
- Transformation process in central and eastern Europe
- Collection and dissemination of data on the transition countries
- In-depth analysis in individual countries in transition

Other cooperation with EBRD:

- Regular supply to EBRD of the ECE analytical documents at the preliminary (pre-publication) stage
- Exchange of country reports on individual economies in transition.

ENERGY

ECE has held working level consultations with EBRD on:

- Inter-agency cooperation in the financing of energy projects in economies in transition

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

EBRD has participated in the following ECE activities:

- Seminar on Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition to Market Economy Conditions
- Review of the steel industries in countries in transition

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

- ECE has established working relations to identify where EBRD could participate in assistance to countries in transition in the Timber Section

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

STATISTICS

- Participation in the inter-agency coordination of technical assistance in statistics to the countries of the former Soviet Union

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

ECE has held working level consultations with IMF on:

- Current economic developments and short-term prospects of the transition countries
- Transformation from centrally-planned to market economy in central and eastern Europe
- Foreign trade of central and east European countries

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- IMF has participated in the session of the Committee on the Development of Trade

WORLD BANK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary met with the World Bank Vice-President and Special Adviser. Arrangements were subsequently made for an all-day briefing at ECE for two senior World Bank officials with ECE programme Directors and/or relevant staff to discuss areas of mutual interest. Follow-up meetings have been held at the World Bank by both the Executive Secretary and his Senior Adviser with a number of Bank officials in areas relevant to ECE's programme of work. One outcome of these contacts is the inclusion of the Office of the Executive Secretary or its representative in an informal "Workshop for Managers of Selected Multilateral Institutions" for the purpose of providing practical operational guidance for technical assistance for institutional development in the region and of exploring the possibilities for cooperation and "synergy" in support of the macroeconomic and sectoral policy reform agenda as well as for long-term capacity-building objectives.

STATISTICS

The World Bank has participated in the following ECE activities
- European Comparison Programme

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The World Bank has participated in the following ECE activities
- Senior Economic Advisers

ECE has held working level consultations with the World Bank on:
- Foreign trade of the central and east European countries
- Transformation of centrally-planned into market economies

Other cooperation with the World Bank:
- Exchange of analytical documents at the prepublication stage

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

The World Bank has participated in the following ECE activities
- Workshop on forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution (CSFR)

Other cooperation with the World Bank
- Regular exchange of information on matters related to the forestry and forest products sector
- Exchange of forest sector information relation to countries in transition

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT)

TRADE FACILITATION

GATT has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

ECE has participated in the following activities of GATT:
- Sessions of the Contracting Parties, of the Council of Representatives and of Working Parties dealing with the trade policy review mechanisms and the review of the terms of accession of certain ECE countries to GATT

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

GATT has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on Steel
- Working Party on Standardization Policies

ECE has held working level consultations with GATT on:
- Steel market developments
- Programme of activities on steel

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

GATT has participated in the following ECE activities

- Committee on Agriculture
- Timber Committee

ECE has participated in the following activities of GATT:

- Meeting on International Dairy Agreement
- International Dairy Products Council
- International Meat Council

PART II

Programme category	United Nations	Agencies of the UN system	Intergovernmental organizations and institutions
Executive Direction	Department of Economic and Social Developmeant (DESD) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) UN Development Programme (UNDP) UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Institute for Training and Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	International Labour Organization (ILO) Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) International Telecommunication Union (ITU) UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Council of Europe European Free Trade Association (EFTA) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) International Energy Agency (IEA) International Trade Centre (ITC)

Programme category	United Nations	Agencies of the UN system	Intergovernmental organizations and institutions
Environment	UNEP, UNCTAD, UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)	ILO, FAO, World Health Organization (WHO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNIDO, IAEA	European Investment Bank, Council of Europe
Transport	UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, ECA, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNCED	ILO, FAO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), WHO, IMO, IAEA	Danube Commission, EFTA, European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Committee of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSZhD), International Institute of Refrigeration
Statistics	UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, INSTRAW	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IMF, WMO	Inter-American Development Bank, CCC, EFTA, Nordic Statistical Secretariat, HELCOM

Programme category	United Nations	Agencies of the UN system	Intergovernmental organizations and institutions
Trade facilitation	UNCTAD, ESCAP, UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), UNDP, ITC	ILO, UPU, ITU, International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT), IMO, UNIDO	CCC, OCTI, EFTA
Economic analysis	DESD, UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNCSDHA), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNCTAD, UNEP, UNFPA, World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU/WIDER), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)	FAO, ILO, IMF	Council of Europe, EFTA
Energy	DESD, UNDP, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, UNIDO, IAEA	
Development of international trade	UNCTAD, ITC		ICC
Industry and technology	DESD, UNCTAD, UNEP	ILO, UNESCO, WHO, ITU, UNIDO	EFTA, Intermetal, International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
Agriculture and timber	UNCTAD, UNEP, INSTRAW, UNCED	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO/IPCC, UNIDO, IAEA	Council of Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), CCC
Human Settlements	HABITAT	WHO	Nordic Council of Ministers

PART III

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CO-OPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

CATEGORY I

International Chamber of Commerce
International Organization of Consumers Union
International Organization for Standardization
World Federation of United Nations Associations

CATEGORY II

American Association of Retired Persons
Associated Country Women of the World
International Air Transport Association
International Association of Classification Societies
International Automobile Federation
International Chamber of Shipping
International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation
International Council of Environmental Law
International Council of Jewish Women
International Electrotechnical Commission
International Federation on Ageing
International Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers
International Federation for Housing and Planning
International Road Federation
International Road Transport Union
International Touring Alliance
International Union of Architects
International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy
International Union for River Navigation
Permanent International Association of Road Congress(es)
World Coal Institute
World Conservation Union
World Energy Council
World Federation of Deaf
World LPG Forum
World Veterans Federation

ROSTER

European Chemical Industry Council
European Confederation of Agriculture
European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association
European Powder Metallurgy Association (EPMA)
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
International Academy of Architecture
International Co-operative Alliance

Roster (cont.)

International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
International Federation for Heat Treatment and Surface Engineering (IFHT)
International Federation of Robotics
International Gas Union
International Iron and Steel Institute
International New Towns Association
International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers
International Real Estate Federation
International Transport Workers' Federation
International Union of Building Centres
International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)
International Union of Real Property
International Union of Tenants
Rehabilitation International (RI)
World Mining Congress

Other non-governmental organizations

Arab Iron and Steel Union
CONCAWE
Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organizations in Europe of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
EUROFER
European Centre for Plastics in the Environment
European Committee of Associations of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers
European Community Dairy Association
European Confederation of Paint, Printing Ink and Artists' Colours Manufacturers Associations
European Confederation of Wood-Working Industries (CEI-Bois)
European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (PESYP)
European Federation of Autoproducers of Electricity
European Fertilizers Manufacturers' Association
European Industry Gas Association
European Petroleum Industry Association
European Secretariat of Manufacturers of Light Metal Packaging
European Syndicate of Steel Drums
EUROTER
Federation of European Aerosol Associations
Federation of European Manufacturers of Friction Materials
GLOBE E.C.
Hazardous Materials Advisory Council
Interdisciplinary Association for the Advancement of Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies - formerly the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA)
Institute for Information Industry
Interfrigo
International Article Numbering Association
International Association of Natural Gas Vehicles
International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
International Committee on Coal Petrology

Other non-governmental organizations (cont.)

International Committee for the Prevention of Work Accidents in Inland Navigation
International Committee of Rail Transport
International Confederation of Drum Reconditioners
International Container Bureau
International Co-operative Alliance
International Council for Bird Preservation
International Express Carries Conference (IECC)
International Federation of Natural Gas Vehicles
International Forestry Student's Association (IFSA)
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
International Nut Council
International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT)
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Union of Private Railway Truck Owners' Associations
International Union of Property Owners
International Union of Railways
Liaison Committee for the Manufacture of Automobile Equipment and Spare Parts
Miners' European Federation
Nordic Committee on Disability
Nordic Development Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering
North African Port Management Association
Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
Transfrigoroute International
Union of the Natural Gas Industries in Europe
World Association of Soil and Water Conservation
World Energy Coalition

UNITED
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session
(Provisional Agenda item 5(d))

RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session in 1992, and by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, namely during the period since the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1992/92 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/47/49).

GE.93-20927

PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1992

1992/14 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

3. In its operative paragraphs the Council:

"1. Strongly urges the Secretary-General to increase the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995, and a goal of 25 per cent of the total within the overall participation rate of 35 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from countries with a low or no representation of women, especially from the developing countries;

2. Urges the Secretary-General to appoint women to senior policy-level and decision-making posts in his next appointments, and to achieve the targets set for the Secretariat by 1995;

4. Calls upon all Member States to contribute fully to increasing the participation rate of women in the Professional category and above throughout the United Nations system by, inter alia, nominating more women candidates, especially for senior policy-level and decision-making posts, encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat and the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and related organizations, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from countries with a low or no representation of women, especially from the developing countries".

4. There are currently 17 women in professional posts in the ECE (14.8%). At the P-5 level and above there is one woman (3.4%) and 16 at lower grades (18.6%).

1992/43 Strengthening the role of the regional commissions

5. The Council in the operative paragraphs of the resolution:

"1. Urges the regional commissions to take steps to enable them fully to play their role in assisting their member States, in particular the developing countries, to promote accelerated and sustainable development through an integrated approach;

2. Recommends that, when preparing regional technical cooperation programmes, all relevant bodies of the United Nations development system coordinate their work with the regional commissions with a view to achieving a better and more focused use of available resources, greater coherence of action and, therefore, greater and more concentrated impact;

3. Also recommends that the regional commissions participate fully in the programme budget process at United Nations Headquarters;

4. Urges that priority setting for programming should take fully into account the views of member States;

6. Requests each regional commission to study the possibility of assisting member States, as appropriate, to participate fully and effectively as the sessions of the regional commissions;

7. Stresses the role and important contribution of the regional commissions, within their mandates, in the follow-up and implementation of the decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular those contained in Agenda 21;

8. Stresses further the importance of the regional commissions being part of the continued reform process in the economic and social fields, bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 46/235".

6. In response to paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 46/235, and taking note of Council resolution 1992/43, the Commission at its Special Session on 5 October 1992 adopted resolution 1 (1992-S): Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields: strengthening the role and functions of the regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Europe. The resolution contained the Commission's recommendations to the Assembly for the strengthening of the ECE. The Assembly at its resumed forty-eighth session will take up the question of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

1992/45 Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

7. In paragraph 1 the Council requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to prepare an evaluation report on the project studies undertaken in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993. In paragraph 7 the Council calls upon the Secretary-General to provide ECA and ECE with the necessary budgetary resources, within existing priorities, for the preparation of the above-mentioned evaluation report.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

47/10 Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

8. In the resolution the Assembly welcomes the CSCE declaration of understanding that it is a regional arrangement in the sense of chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and as such provides an important link between European and global security. It calls for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the CSCE, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session a report on cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the CSCE.

9. The Commission may wish to request the Executive Secretary to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General the work carried out by the UN/ECE as a multilateral implementing forum of the CSCE as a contribution to his report to the Assembly, including the ECE contribution to and participation in the first meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum.

47/92 Convening of a world summit for social development

10. In operative paragraph 3 the Assembly

"Decides to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government to be held early in 1995".

In paragraph 4 it

"Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to act as host to the Summit".

In operative paragraph 5 the Assembly decides that the Summit shall have the following objectives:

"(a) To further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in Article 55, to promote 'higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development', and 'solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems', with particular focus on social development aspects;

(b) To express a shared world-wide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation as a major priority of international relations;

(c) To stimulate international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, through governmental, private and non-governmental initiatives, in order to assist in the implementation of nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and to formulate strategies which enable all citizens to be actively engaged in those policies;

(d) To formulate strategies on goals, policies and priority actions that could be taken at the national, regional and international levels to address, in the different development realities, core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries;

(e) To create international awareness of and address the modalities to attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable development environment in accordance with nationally defined priorities;

(f) To address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development;

(g) To identify common problems of socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and promote the integration of those groups into society, highlighting the need for societies to equalize opportunities for all members;

(h) To promote programmes to ensure legal protection, foster effective social welfare programmes and enhance education and training for different groups in all societies, including the marginalized and disadvantaged groups;

(i) To assist in ensuring a more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society;

(j) To highlight the need to mobilize resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(k) To make appropriate recommendations regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development, in particular measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development".

In operative paragraph 14 the Assembly

"Requests the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session".

11. To assist delegations in considering this question the secretariat has prepared a background paper on the socio-economic activities of the ECE (see Annex). The Commission may wish to adopt the course of action suggested in paragraphs 1 and 37 of that paper.

47/95 Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

12. In paragraph 11 the Assembly recommends the further development of methods of compilation and data collection in areas of concern identified by the Commission on the Status of Women, and in paragraph 13 it emphasizes once again the need to give urgent attention to redressing socio-economic inequalities at the national and international levels as a necessary step towards the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

In paragraph 20 the Assembly

"Also requests the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, bearing in mind its importance, placing particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force, as well as the impact of reduced expenditures for social services on women's

opportunities for education, health and child care, and to submit a preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1993 and a final version in 1994".

In paragraph 22 the Assembly

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies".

13. Taking into account the provisions of this resolution and those of Council resolution 1990/12 and Assembly resolution 44/77 in which it was decided to convene a World Conference, the Commission may wish at its forty-eighth session to decide to convene a regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995. The meeting is expected to focus on many of the issues raised in resolution 47/95.

47/165 Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

14. In the resolution the Assembly

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/150, and the recommendations contained therein on priority areas of international cooperation in studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, taking into consideration the subsequent social, economic and other changes that have occurred in the countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the light of his recommendations on priority areas, to undertake an analytical review of all United Nations activities to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in those countries most affected, including related Secretariat arrangements, taking full account of ongoing programmes and other relevant activities, including those of regional and other organizations, and the principle of comparative advantage;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the conclusions of the analytical review

requested in paragraph 3 above, and to submit an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993;

5. Decides to consider at its forty-eighth session the question of the biennialization of this agenda item."

15. Several ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies have proposals under consideration for work intended to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The Committee on Agriculture and the Timber Committee have included in their programmes of work items relating to the Chernobyl disaster.

47/166 International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery

16. In operative paragraphs 1 and 2 the Assembly

"Appeals to all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to provide cooperation in various forms, and special and other assistance, in particular in the most severely affected areas and with a view to facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to those areas;

Requests the Secretary-General, having regard for the continuum ranging from emergency relief to the longer-term development needs of the war-torn region, to initiate, in cooperation with the Government of Croatia, an assessment of needs for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Croatia, and to introduce, if appropriate, an international appeal for the funding of a programme for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development".

17. The Commission may wish to request its subsidiary bodies to study possible action to assist the Government of Croatia in sectors mentioned in the resolution and to submit their recommendations to the Commission at its forty-ninth session.

47/171 Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development

18. In paragraph 2 the Assembly calls upon interested Member States to enhance the exchange of information among themselves and all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on their activities, programmes and experiences concerning privatization, demonopolization, administrative deregulation and other relevant policies in order to increase the efficiency and coordination of technical cooperation in this field. In paragraph 3 it requests the Secretary-General to improve, within existing resources, research activities on all areas of privatization, demonopolization, administrative deregulation and other relevant policies to enhance cooperation with national and international research institutions and to include all pertinent findings in relevant United Nations publications, including the World Economic Survey.

19. In 1992 the ECE secretariat published a Guide on Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry (ECE/TRADE/180) and prepared a Note on Progress of Privatization in the Economies in Transition (TRADE/R.595). A new Guide on "Privatization on Foreign Investment in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Legal Aspects" will be published in 1993. A study on the promotion of foreign direct investment in the ECE region was also prepared by the ECE secretariat. A workshop on the promotion of FDI in countries in transition will be organized in Slovenia in the spring of 1993.

20. Pursuant to Commission decision O (45) and within the framework of its programme of workshops for countries in transition, a number of workshops have been organized and several are envisaged dealing with issues relating to privatization, restructuring of state-owned enterprises and industrial policy in the countries in transition. A report is to be published containing selected papers presented at the Workshop on Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition which was held in Budapest, Hungary, in October 1992. Privatization is also a subject which has been studied in the analysis provided by the secretariat, particularly in the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992, and that under preparation for 1992-1993, and the recommendations adopted by the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments at their twenty-eighth session.

47/176 International Conference on Population and Development

21. In operative paragraphs 3 and 4 the Assembly

> "Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/37 of 30 July 1992, in which the Council decided to convene the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994;
>
> Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Egypt to act as host to the Conference".

In operative paragraph 14 the Assembly

> "Stresses the significance of the various regional perspectives that exist on issues of population and development, and welcomes in this context the convening by the regional commissions and the United Nations Population Fund of regional population conferences, whose outcome will contribute significantly to the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development".

22. UN/ECE, jointly with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, has convened the European Population Conference in Geneva from 23-26 March 1993 in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development. The agenda for the European Conference includes the following items: international migration; fertility and the family; health and mortality; population growth and age structure: selected consequences; international cooperation in the field of population. The Meeting at its Ministerial Session will adopt a set of recommendations which will constitute the Commission's contribution to the International Conference.

47/180 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

23. In operative paragraphs 1 and 2 the Assembly

"Decides to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, at the highest possible level of participation;

Decides that the Conference, in addressing human settlements issues in the context of sustainable development, should have the following objectives:

(a) In the long term, to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create the conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis, with special attention to the needs and contributions of women and vulnerable social groups whose quality of life and participation in development have been hampered by exclusion and inequality, affecting the poor in general;

(b) To adopt a general statement of principles and commitments and formulate a related global plan of action capable of guiding national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century; such a plan of action should include:

(i) A comprehensive set of programmes and subprogrammes, with realistic targets and timetables, and provision for monitoring and evaluation of performance;

(ii) Guidelines for national settlement policies and strategies that can effectively contribute to the alleviation of urban and rural poverty and the promotion of a sustainable economic development process with due consideration given to the growth and distribution of population, the urban transition, natural disasters, the availability of land and other resources and the interests of women and major groups;

(iii) Programmes and subprogrammes relating to new and emerging issues of technologies, including the impact of the current communication and informatics revolution, energy, transportation and environmental infrastructure, namely, water-supply, sanitation and waste management;

(iv) Programmes and subprogrammes that would carry forward relevant elements of Agenda 21 to promote the development of environmentally sustainable human settlements in the future;

(v) Proposals for mobilizing, nationally and internationally, the necessary human, financial and technical resources, taking into account the enabling concept and the commitments of new and additional resources, as well as funding from countries' own public and private sectors, for the implementation of Agenda 21 programmes;

(vi) Measures for the reorganization and strengthening of national, metropolitan and municipal institutions and machinery to enhance the development of human settlements and operations capabilities;

(vii) Recommendations on ways in which the role of the United Nations and existing institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in human settlements can be strengthened".

In paragraph 5 the Assembly

"Invites relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations to participate actively in the preparatory process".

In paragraph 19 the Assembly

"Recommends that regional and subregional preparatory meetings should be held in conjunction with meetings of subregional and regional intergovernmental bodies, wherever possible".

24. The ECE participated in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee which was held in New York from 3 to 5 March 1993.

47/187 Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

25. In paragraph 3 the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to coordinate and strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to conduct analytical and policy advice activities regarding the changes that take place in those economies as they integrate into the world economy.

26. Pursuant to Commission decisions C (45), O (45), B (46) and D (47) the ECE has undertaken work, both within its regular programme activities and in its programme of workshops, to assist countries in transition and to facilitate their integration with the European and world economies (see document E/ECE/1272).

47/191 Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

27. In operative paragraphs 27 and 28 the Assembly

"Requests United Nations regional commissions to examine the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans to implement Agenda 21;

Requests the Economic and Social Council to decide on the arrangements required so that the reports of regional commissions with the conclusions related to such a review be made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1993, or at the latest in 1994".

28. In response to Commission decision E (47) the secretariat prepared for the sixth session of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems (16-19 March 1993) a note on the implications at the regional level of the outcome of the UNCED (ENVWA/R.69). The document contains a list of 31 possible actions which the Commission may wish to consider to implement Agenda 21.

29. Chapters 19, 20 and 22 of Agenda 21, which deal with the Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous Wastes and Radioactive Wastes respectively, and the Prevention of Illegal Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products/Wastes, are directly relevant to the work of the ITC Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and of the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (which is also a body serviced by the secretariat of the UN/ECE).

30. At its second session the Working Party on the Chemical Industry considered the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry, held in Warsaw, Poland in March 1992, and discussed in detail possible activities within the follow-up process entitled "Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development" (CHEMISEED). Within the framework of this process, the Working Party will undertake a pilot project to demonstrate the environmental clean-up of selected chemical production sites, and it will organize a meeting of experts in Warsaw in April 1993 to prepare a detailed project proposal for the establishment of a Regional Environmental Management Centre for the Chemical Industry; a workshop in Turkey in 1994 on waste treatment in industrial parks; and a seminar in the Russian Federation in 1995 on the complex utilization of raw materials using advanced low- and non-waste process technologies.

31. In June 1993 a Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe will be held in Helsinki with the participation of ECE and FAO. The Conference will consider follow-up action to UNCED covering the issues of:

- principles for sustainable development
- guidelines for conservation
- cooperation with countries in transition
- strategies related to climate change.

32. Sustainable development is an important guiding principle in the development and implementation of the programme of work of the Committee on Energy. Among the results already achieved are:

- the publication on "Sustainable energy developments in Europe and North America" (ECE Energy Series No. 6, New York, 1991);
- the project "Energy Efficiency 2000"; and
- the project "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an Interregional Project".

PART II

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REGULAR SESSIONS IN 1992

1992/14 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

1992/36 Privatization and foreign investment in the context of economic restructuring

1992/37 International Conference on Population and Development

1992/38 International cooperation and coordination of efforts to address and mitigate the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

1992/40 Activities of the United Nations system in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States

1992/46 Admission of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1992/50 Admission of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

47/90 The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends

47/175 Impact of the recent evolution of the economies in transition on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation

47/193 Observance of World Day for Water

47/213 Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995

ANNEX

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

1. This note has been prepared by the secretariat to assist the Commission in determining its response to General Assembly resolution 47/92 which requests the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development to be convened in Denmark in 1995 with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. Operative paragraph 5 of the resolution sets out the objectives of the Conference. The activities listed in this paper have been carried out within the framework of the Commission's programme of work. The Commission at its forty-eighth session may wish to endorse the continuation of these and other activities related to the themes of the World Summit as its contribution to the Summit and request the Executive Secretary to transmit a report on those activities to the Secretary-General for inclusion in the integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly.

Social policies

2. The countries of the ECE region have been in the forefront in the development and implementation of social welfare policies and programmes designed to raise the living standards of their citizens, although there have always been significant differences between the countries in that respect. While some countries, particularly those in the west, enjoy a relatively high level of economic and social development, they are also witnessing major economic and social changes which call for innovative and practical approaches. In the countries of central and eastern Europe which have recently begun the process of transition from a command to a market economy, and from a rigid totalitarian political system to democracy, unprecedented challenges to social policy-making are to be found. In its economic analysis of these developments the ECE has drawn attention to the need to maintain or to restore a social net to assist the more vulnerable sections of the population, especially where inflation and unemployment appear as new phenomena.

3. At the same time, due to medical advances, better health standards, lower birth-rates and the ageing of the population, changes in demography of the countries of the region have major implications for wide sectors of economic activity, including the transport sector, housing, public services and, in particular, the provision of healthcare services for the disabled and the elderly.

4. Social expenditures presently account for an important share of national expenditure in most countries of the region. ECE data for several west European market-economy countries show that social spending as a proportion of their Gross Domestic Product increased from about one sixth in 1960 to more than a quarter in the early 1980s. For most of this period rapid growth in social expenditure took place in a more favourable economic climate than that of today and that forecast for the next decade.

5. The present economic climate and conditions in the countries of the region are having a significant influence on national social and healthcare policies. This is becoming very evident from the range of measures which are being introduced in many countries with a view to controlling and more evenly spreading the costs among all sectors of the population.

6. The search for ways to reconcile the contradictory trends – on the one hand, to control social welfare and healthcare costs, and on the other to satisfy the increasing demand for social and healthcare services – has been the subject of considerable study over the past decade within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Particular attention is paid to the role of the social pact in the context of economic integration.

Population issues

7. Interconnected with social and economic developments in the region are the population changes typical of the demographic maturity associated with low, often sub-replacement fertility, and low and falling mortality. These population shifts are characterized by slow and, at times, negative population growth, and advanced and accelerating population ageing. They are compounded by international population movements, which are no longer restricted to south-north migration but increasingly involve east-west movements and new migration streams arising, in part, from the dissolution of multi-ethnic States in central and eastern Europe.

8. Population ageing and the status of the elderly are increasingly attracting the attention of top policy-makers in the region, so much so that 1993 has been designated as the European Year of Elderly People by the European Community. In response to the growing need for policy-relevant knowledge on the determinants and consequences of population ageing, the ECE has recently published a large collection of studies on demographic determinants and economic consequences of population aging; the volume is entitled "Demographic Causes and Economic Consequences of Population Aging: Europe and North America". A second, companion volume which will be entitled "Social Aspects and Country Reviews of Population Ageing" will be published in mid-1993.

9. The ECE, in collaboration with UNFPA, is currently engaged in a new, innovative project on the characteristics and conditions of the elderly in selected countries of the region. The project will draw microdata census samples containing information on elderly individuals, members of their households and the dwelling units in which they live based on the 1990 round of national population and housing censuses. The samples will be analysed with a view to preparing and publishing national studies and cross-national comparative studies on a variety of policy-relevant themes, among which will be: living arrangements of the elderly, profiles of institutionalized elderly populations, economic and housing conditions of the elderly, and work and retirement patterns among the old.

10. Advanced and accelerating population ageing is primarily a consequence of the long-term downward trends in the average family size and, more recently, major gains in old-age survival. The fertility decline has been brought about by declines in marriage rates, which have, however, been largely compensated

by increases in non-marital cohabitation, and a decrease in the number of children couples choose to have. These trends have been associated with major gains in the educational attainment of women, increases in female participation in the labour market and shifts in values toward family and children. In order better to understand the interrelationships between family formation and dissolution, childbearing, education and work of women, and values, the ECE is collaborating with UNFPA and national demographic centres on the collection and analysis of fertility and family sample survey data in more than a dozen ECE countries.

11. In the past five years many ECE countries have experienced surges in uncontrolled immigration. The numbers of illegal migrants, asylum seekers, displaced persons and refugees have been on the rise in both western Europe and North America. Although the immigration of foreign workers has been largely controlled at a low level, other forms of regular migration, especially those arising from family reunification, have continued unabated. In central and eastern Europe and in the territory of the former Soviet Union the emergence of new independent States, economic hardship, ethnic strife and civil war have contributed to population movements which could not have been anticipated only a few years ago. In view of this, the ECE is engaged in a research project which, among other things, seeks to document in a rapid and comprehensive manner the various population movements within the region. The project will also analyse the causes and effects, as well as conditions and processes, of international migration taking place within and originating from the countries in transition.

12. The countries in the region have extensive experience with various population-related policies, including both population-influencing and population-accommodating policy measures. Although some of these policies, such as family policies, are known to have demographic effects, in many countries they have only been used to improve the well-being of the population. The demographic impact of many of these policies is not fully understood, which makes it difficult for the policy-maker to use them as instruments of deliberate population policy formulation and implementation. In view of this, the ECE is engaged in a major research project, the objective of which is a comprehensive review and evaluation of population-related policies in the following three fields: the elderly and population aging, fertility and the family, and international migration. The findings of the studies will be widely disseminated in the region and throughout the developing world.

13. Many of the population issues and policies that are being studied by the secretariat are on the agenda of the European Population Conference which will be held in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993. The Conference is convened jointly by ECE, UNFPA and the Council of Europe. The themes of the Conference include the following: international migration, fertility and the family, health and mortality, population growth and age structure (selected consequences), and international cooperation in the field of population. This ministerial-level intergovernmental conference will review population-related issues and policies in the region and adopt a set of recommendations addressing these issues and policies. The recommendations, along with a report of the Conference, will represent a contribution of the three

Conference organizers to the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994.

Women's issues

14. In support of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women; Equality, Development and Peace the ECE is to hold a regional preparatory meeting as a follow-up to the two meetings held in 1980 and 1984 in preparation for the Nairobi Conference. The meeting is expected to focus on socio-economic aspects of the status of women in the ECE region, with particular emphasis on women in the countries in transition to a market economy.

15. At the invitation of UNIDO the secretariat is investigating the possibility of cooperating on a typology examination of women's involvement in economic and industrial development for the European region with the aim of identifying strategies and mechanisms to provide women with access to, and participation in, the industrial services sector, and to increase women's integration into the upper échelons of economic and industrial management. The work is also envisaged as a contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

16. The ECE is also cooperating with INSTRAW and IFAD on a training and exchange programme involving women farmers in Hungary and Bulgaria and their counterparts in the American mid-west. The objective of the project is to introduce the Bulgarian and Hungarian women to farm operations in a market economy and to expose them to managerial, technical and other skills relevant to agricultural work in a market economy.

Statistics

17. At the same time the Conference of European Statisticians, a Principal Subsidiary Body of the ECE, has assembled an inventory of the main types of statistics and indicators on women available from ECE countries and from intergovernmental organizations in the region. The Conference convened two meetings in cooperation with INSTRAW (the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) to discuss various methodological problems and issues such as usage of time-use surveys, methods of measuring women's contribution to household income, and estimates of women's under-employment. The Conference convened other meetings in 1989 and 1992 on improved measurements of women's labour-force participation and statistical indicators required by the Forward-looking Strategies in countries of the ECE region, and will convene the next one in 1995.

18. The Conference of European Statisticians also has a number of other projects in its work programme which have a social dimension, such as population aging (it published a volume in 1991 on demographic and economic consequences of changing population age structures), international migration, housing and human-settlement statistics, and health, education and cultural statistics.

Human settlements

19. One example is the ECE work in harmonizing regulations and exchanging information for the construction of human settlements to shelter the peoples of the region. Under the auspices of its Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, more than 20 seminars have been held in the last 10 years on subjects such as housing forecasting and programming; housing finance; rent policies; housing improvement; urban renewal; integrated socio-economic, physical and environmental planning; energy conservation; land-use policies; housing for the handicapped; livability of human settlements development in the Arctic; citizen participation; and planning for recreation and leisure.

Environment and sustainable development

20. The protection of the environment from both air and water pollution which has been a pillar of ECE's work for more than 20 years has an important social dimension, including health care. The Commission's recent acceptance of sustainable development as a guiding principle for all its relevant activities has served to underscore the social dimension. Its work on air-pollution control resulted in the adoption of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution at a Ministerial Meeting in Geneva in 1979. Now ratified by more than 30 countries, the Convention has already been under-pinned by two protocols. One deals with the monitoring of pollutants deposited throughout the region and the identification of their source; the other provides a commitment for a 30% cut in sulphur-dioxide pollution. A third protocol on nitrogen oxide was adopted in November 1988. The Regional Long-term Strategy for Environmental Protection and the Rational Use of Natural Resources was endorsed by the Commission at its forty-third session in 1988. The Strategy sets the framework for achieving, in the early part of the next century, conditions whereby economic growth and social development are compatible with a sustainable use of the environment.

21. Through a series of vivid incidents, the citizens of this region have come to realize that they can no longer take it for granted that there is ready access to unlimited clean water whenever they turn on the tap. Lakes, rivers, groundwaters as well as coastal waters have a limited capacity to carry pollutants, and water availability thus depends to a large extent on water quality. To this end, the Governments of the region endorsed the ECE Declaration of Policy on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, including Transboundary Pollution, and on the Rational Use of Water. Recommendations to ECE Governments were adopted in particular on drinking-water supply and effluent disposal systems as well as on waste-water treatment.

22. Increased emphasis had been placed on the protection of aquifers against pollution and over-use in view of the importance of groundwater as a safe source of drinking water and as an essential part of the natural ecosystem. As a result of many activities in this field, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems are now finalizing the Charter on Groundwater Management in order to provide guidance to Governments in formulating, adopting and implementing groundwater policies on a national and international level aiming at, inter alia, safe drinking-water supply. With a view to promoting international cooperation in reducing the risk of accidental

pollution of transboundary waters, the Senior Advisers are elaborating a code of conduct in this field.

Tourism

23. With increasing disposable incomes and reduced work times, more and more people enjoy increased leisure time which is often used for travel. Tourism is one of the fastest growing service industries and as such has important environmental and social consequences in tourist-receiving areas. Development of adequate tourist areas to avoid pollution of the natural environment is a major task of land-use and tourism planning. Experience has shown that besides the positive economic aspects, tourism can destabilize traditional economic systems, particularly in rural and coastal areas, and disturb traditional social patterns. In order to understand these issues better and subsequently promote sustainable development the Committee on Human Settlements, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Agriculture and Timber Committees have carried out joint work, particularly in the preparation of a Symposium on Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development held in October 1991. Recognizing the economic importance of tourism for transition countries, further activities in this field are planned in the form of workshops.

Trade

23. In the field of employment particular attention is devoted to the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in generating new employment opportunities. A study on SMEs in the ECE region was prepared by the secretariat in 1992 which showed that, in addition to becoming the main suppliers of new jobs, SMEs are also showing more resistance than large enterprises to a recession situation. SMEs thus have a stabilizing effect in times of economic fluctuations. The secretariat study also described how the privatization process in the countries in transition is affecting the emergence of SMEs, and to what extent the creation of SMEs could absorb part of the unemployment in those countries. An ECE workshop on that issue, including the role of SMEs for international trade and investment, is scheduled for 1993.

Transport

24. The establishment of international conventions and agreements is one of the important facets of the Economic Commission for Europe's activities in the field of transport. Since its beginning, the Inland Transport Committee has adopted 48 conventions and agreements concerning the entire sector of inland transport, thereby facilitating the movement of goods and people in the ECE region and beyond.

25. A further aspect of these conventions covers traffic safety. The provisions contained in world-wide Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals and the European Agreement supplementing them are the basis for a region-wide endeavour to make our lives safer in road transport. Safety aspects also play a major role in the design and construction of motor-vehicle parts and equipment; one may even note the drivers' licences and car-insurance forms which are also products of the ECE, as well as regulations

on hours of driving and the methods for its recording for road-haulage vehicles. The ECE organized a Road Safety Week in 1990 which was observed in all countries of the region. A similar event will be organized in 1995 aimed particularly at young people.

26. The ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport regularly considers possibilities on how to improve procedures to prevent the abuse of customs transit systems by drug smugglers. The Commission continues to service the work of ECOSOC at the global level on the transport of dangerous goods to guarantee the application of standards which ensure public safety at a time of growing concern over the movement and storage of hazardous products. Work in ECE also helps to improve the transport of handicapped persons in road traffic, the transport of persons using wheelchairs in public-service vehicles and the adaptation of passenger cars to the needs of the disabled.

Rehabilitation

27. In the ECE region some 10% of the population suffer from some form of serious disability, and this percentage is expected to increase in the future as the aging of the population progresses. Rehabilitation engineering could provide the tools with which the disabled, as well as the growing elderly population, could satisfy their basic needs, pursue their educational and occupational activities and improve the quality of their lives. Rehabilitation engineering involves a wide range of technologies, some very expensive, others simple and affordable.

28. In 1989 a project on rehabilitation engineering was launched by the ECE Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation in close cooperation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering, the World Health Organization and several other international organizations. The study was conducted through a series of three workshops: the first was held in Washington D.C. in June 1990 (REHAB-1), the second at Fagernes, Norway, in May 1991 (REHAB-2), and the third (and final) took place at Trebon-Spa (Czech Republic) in May 1992 (REHAB-3). Experts from 27 countries (25 ECE member States, Japan and the People's Republic of China) as well as representatives of 19 international regional and subregional organizations active in the field participated in the workshops. The wide interest registered in the study of recent rehabilitation technologies, service delivery infrastructures for disabled and elderly people, cost-effectiveness, including financial and quality-of-life aspects, market entry and system development strategies, education and information and other related issues, demonstrated the increased recognition of the urgent need to improve the status of disabled persons in the region and to equalize their opportunities. This is particularly important for the countries in transition to market economies of central and eastern Europe which presently face a multitude of problems. The ECE is preparing a publication on the outcome of its work in the field of rehabilitation engineering as its contribution to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

Energy

29. To increase mine safety the ECE will hold a symposium in St. Petersburg from 5 to 9 June 1994. The meeting will address the theoretical concepts of

sudden outbursts of rock, coal and gas; the potential for forecasting these hazards; and their prevention and the mitigation of their impact on miners. The meeting aims at systematizing outbursts and their prevention and thereby at enhancing the application of international experience and technology of forecasting and prevention techniques in underground coal-mining. It will address such issues as: early warning, rescue, means of securing the safety of miners, simulation of rescue operations and rescue training.

Agriculture

30. The ECE Committee on Agriculture, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization, has drawn up a series of standards covering a range of foodstuffs including potatoes, fresh and dried fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat and seed potatoes. New activities on quality development and consumers' attitudes towards quality in the agri-food sector are being developed.

31. The FAO/ECE Working Party on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management deals with a range of topics related to the welfare of farming communities and families and the problems of maintaining an economically viable social fabric in the more remote and less prosperous areas. In 1994, for example, the Working Party will devote its regular session to the human factor in agriculture with reference to rapid changes in market situations, social environment and technology. A seminar held in Austria in June 1991 dealt with the alternative uses of agricultural land other than food production.

Timber

32. The Timber Committee has included in its work a particular programme element to cover problems in the forestry and forest-industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster. On this point a team of experts will be established in 1993, and it is envisaged that meetings will held in the Russian Federation and in Ukraine. The Committee's activities are in part jointly carried out with the FAO European Forestry Commission and the IAEA/FAO.

33. The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology Management and Training fosters international collaboration on technical, economic, social and organizational aspects of forest workers' activities, including prevention of accidents, occupational health, ergonomics, socio-economic requirements and the future of the forest work-force in the context of sustainable forest development. An international network on the forestry work-force is being built up in cooperation with ILO. A seminar was held on the future of the forestry work-force (United States, 1992). It addressed socio-economic questions of interest for the whole ECE region, in particular the countries in transition of central and eastern Europe.

Industry

34. A number of studies have been undertaken over the past decade aimed at reducing and mitigating the effects of certain industrial activity which has had, and continues to have, an adverse effect on the health of the citizens of the countries of the region. This is focused in part on reducing

environmental pollution through the development and use of low- and non-waste technologies and/or the utilization of wastes in various sectors of industry. These have included continuing work on the collection of information on the use of steel scrap and studies on the recuperation and economic utilization of by-products of the iron and steel industry, the recycling of used tyres and rubber wastes, the use and disposal of wastes from phosphoric acid and titanium dioxide, and substitutes for tripolyphosphates in detergents and the management of plastic wastes. A number of seminars have also been held on subjects such as international standards for environmental protection, the role of the chemical industry in environmental protection, and on air-pollution control in engineering industries. Three seminars are to take place in 1993: one on metallurgy and ecology in Nancy, France; another on foundry production and ecology in Minsk, Belarus; and a third on energy efficiency standards and labelling systems in Geneva.

35. Certain sectoral bodies of the Commission have also addressed the issue of the conservation and treatment of water by industry. A study was published in 1984 on engineering equipment and automation means for waste-water management prepared under the auspices of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, and a new study was launched under the auspices of the Chemical Industry Committee at the beginning of 1989 on the rational use of water and its treatment in the chemical industry.

Science and technology

36. The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, in responding to the recommendations of the CSCE process, have launched a study of contacts among young scientists in this region. The study shows that, even in the countries of this region, where offers of overseas scholarships are not uncommon, less than 1% of all students enrolled in post-secondary institutions are of foreign origin. The SAST have begun to study ways of increasing these contacts especially in scientific and technological fields in the belief that such exchanges lead to a better mutual understanding among all peoples.

Conclusion

37. The above list of activities, which is intended to be indicative rather than exhaustive, illustrates the areas of the Commission's programme of work where there is a growing interdependence between economic and social aspects. This is especially the case of the countries of the region which are in transition to a market economy and from a totalitarian to a democratic political and social system. While it is true that increased economic activity is required in order to finance social development, economic development and reform without adequate social welfare policies are unlikely to attain longer-term national goals. It is in this context that the Commission's subsidiary bodies and the secretariat are engaged in the above-mentioned socio-economic developments within the region. The Commission may therefore wish to bring these and related activities to the attention of the Secretary-General for inclusion in the integrated report which he is requested to submit to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/92.

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COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL PROGRAMMES AND TO THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF OTHER REGIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The activities described below are considered either (a) to be of particular relevance to United Nations programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions, or (b) to constitute a contribution of the ECE to the Organization's global programmes.

2. In the past year, 27 countries from other regions have participated in 110 ECE meetings, in particular in the sectors of trade and transport. Ten of these were countries of the ESCAP region, 9 of the ECA region, 4 of the ECLAC region and 4 of the ESCWA region.

3. Within the framework of its assistance to the countries in transition in central and eastern Europe and, in particular, its programme of workshops, a number of issues have been covered which could be of interest to the developing countries of other regions, including those related to human settlements; environment; industrial development; energy; transport; statistics; international trade; development issues and policies; and food and agriculture, forestry and timber.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF OTHER REGIONS

Transport

4. The ECE ensures the secretariat of the ECOSOC Committee of Experts which prepares the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. The Committee of Experts' mandate is global and developing countries are represented among the experts. ECE cooperates with other international

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organizations (IMO, ICAO, UNEP, OCTI, CCNR and IAEA) and the other regional commissions to ensure worldwide implementation of the Recommendations. The secretariat provides advice to developing countries which request it on the interpretation of the Recommendations and facilitates exchange of information on the experience of countries in this field.

5. Since 1982 the ECE, in cooperation with ECA, has continued to implement Council resolutions on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar. In response to Council resolution 1991/74 the Executive Secretaries of ECA and ECE are preparing an evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Council in 1993.

6. In cooperation with ECA a seminar on facilitation of international road and rail transport, including harmonization of transport regulations, is being prepared with the main objective of transferring available know-how to countries in Africa and to assist ECA in developing a coherent programme in this field in the context of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa.

7. As an associate member of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, ECE continues to promote the adoption and implementation of multilateral legal instruments in the field of transport, such as the 1968 Vienna Convention, the 1975 TIR Convention and the 1982 Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods, 1982, with a view to providing common legal régimes applicable to international land transport between Europe, Western and South-East Asia.

Statistics

8. The ECE continues to provide assistance to developing countries through the transfer of results and know-how of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2 (SCP-2). Thirty-two final SCP-2 products have been disseminated to 45 developing countries in all regions as well as to the regional commissions and other international organizations. These activities encompass not only maintenance and dissemination of individual products but also their further development. Based on the recommendation of the Steering Committee of the SCP-2, many projects launched under the SCP-2 continue successfully within the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians.

Trade facilitation

9. Conscious of the global importance of facilitation for improving the international trade of all countries, the Economic and Social Council has called on the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to formulate a project for interregional cooperation that would promote the reduction, simplification and harmonization of formalities, procedures and documentation, in particular through the phased application of the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT). It requested them to elaborate specific proposals relating to

interregional cooperation in this field and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations.

10. The ECE, together with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD, is in the process of finalizing such project proposals at both the regional and global levels. Conscious, however, that a solid foundation for UN/EDIFACT at the regional level should be created before proceeding to its global application, the ECE secretariat will start with the development of the training component of the regional project applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other ECE countries where facilitation of international trade procedures is still at an early stage. The secretariats of ECE, UNCTAD and ITC have formed a joint Task Force to enhance cooperation in the areas of trade efficiency and trade promotion.

Economic analysis

11. The profound systemic transformations taking place in central and east European countries include the transition to a market economy, ownership restructuring and privatization, introduction of a democratic political system, establishment of the rule of law and the integration of their economies into the European and global economies. ECE member countries have stressed the need for high-quality observation and analysis of these developments, the results of which would be relevant for other countries of the region which are developing from an economic point of view and also for developing countries of other regions.

12. In 1992 the secretariat published Demographic Causes and Economic Consequences of Population Aging (UN/ECE Economic Studies, No.3, issued jointly with the United Nations Population Fund). The comparative analysis of the demographic aspects of changes in the age structure, general economic aspects of aging, labour force and employment and also of the impact of aging on the public sector and age-cost profiles indicate that problems of aging transcend the usually understood frontiers of social and economic systems and the stages of development. This study is relevant, therefore, for developing countries both in the region and elsewhere. Several other population projects carried out by the ECE secretariat with financial support of UNFPA – on family surveys, social and economic conditions of elderly populations, east-west international migration and population-related policies – are in general, and in particular from the methodological point of view, of direct importance for developing countries in other parts of the world.

Energy

13. The ECE secretariat assisted the ESCWA secretariat in organizing a Symposium on Gas Developments and Market Prospects by the Year 2000 and Beyond (Damascus, Syria, June 1992) (ENERGY/WP.3/R.13).

14. Two ad hoc meetings were held in 1992 to elaborate an interregional project entitled "Global Energy Efficiency 21" for the benefit of developing countries in other regions. The Project is based on the concept of the ECE Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, i.e. it aims at enhancing the transfer of knowledge, experience and information on energy-efficient technologies and practices on the occasion of international trade fairs, seminars and

workshops. Projects would be generated "bottom-up" at the regional level, linked through an interregional steering committee and financed from extra-budgetary resources. At present, projects are identified at the regional level and proposed for funding. (See ENERGY/AC.13/R.2/Rev.2 entitled "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an Interregional Approach"). The Committee on Energy in November 1992 took note with considerable interest of the proposed Project and agreed to transmit it to the Commission for consideration and possible transmission to ECOSOC (ECE/ENERGY/21, para. 35).

Agriculture

15. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development provides developing countries with an opportunity to participate in the elaboration of international commercial standards for products of special interest to them, especially fresh or dried fruit and vegetables; it also offers advice and assistance regarding quality control for exports.

16. The secretariat and the various joint ECE/FAO working parties provide direct or indirect inputs to FAO's work aimed principally at developing countries in the fields of agriculture and food statistics, sustainable agricultural and rural development, land use, farm management, selected aspects of soil fertility, the use of water resources and fertilizers.

Timber

17. Through its seminars and teams of specialists for ECE countries which are developing from the economic point of view and developing countries in other regions, the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training provides practical information on forest operations and management. The International Forest Fire News is published twice yearly and contains information from all parts of the world. The proceedings of the seminar on forest fire prevention, land use and people were published. Preparations have begun for a seminar in Portugal in 1994 or 1995 on training of forest workers in Mediterranean countries.

Human settlements

18. The Committee on Human Settlements is publishing a report on housing policy guidelines which is of practical value to developing countries. It addresses the importance of the provision of housing as a necessary precondition for human development in all countries and regions of the world.

(b) CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (Brazil, 1992)

19. A compendium of UN/ECE conventions in the field of environment was circulated at the UNCED, as they provide elements which could be of assistance to countries of other regions in their campaigns to halt and reduce environmental degradation and to promote sustainable development. They included the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of

Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; and the 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

20. The ECE cooperates with the ILO/WHO/UNEP International Programme for Chemical Safety (IPCS) and with UNEP on the implementation of chapters of UNCED Agenda 21, in particular chapters 19 and 20 (environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and of hazardous wastes including prevention of illegal international traffic in them), and chapter 22 (safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes).

21. The results of the Workshop on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development held in Orebro (Sweden) (HBP/R.294) provided a basis for the contribution of the Committee to the implementation of UNCED Agenda 21.

22. The Committee on Human Settlements has also expressed its readiness to cooperate with other relevant UN/ECE subsidiary bodies in the implementation of Agenda 21, as it declared the promotion of sustainable development to be one of its two basic strategic objectives.

23. The Inland Transport Committee and the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems considered a proposal to convene a conference in the UN/ECE region on transport and the environment, which is one of the recommendations contained in Agenda 21.

International Conference on Population and Development (1994)

24. UN/ECE, jointly with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, has convened the European Population Conference in Geneva from 23-26 March 1993 in preparation for the International Conference. The agenda and programme for the European Conference, as well as the draft recommendations to be adopted at the meeting, have been circulated to UN/ECE member Governments.

World Conference on Women (1995)

25. By its resolution 44/77 the Assembly convened the Fourth World Conference on Women and called for regional meetings to prepare the World Conference. At its forty-sixth session the Commission included in its programme of work provision for the convening of a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference. To date the Commission has taken no decision to proceed with work in this area.

26. The secretariat initiated work on its publication on statistics of women in the ECE region. The publication will be aimed at a wide target audience and will contain a range of basic statistics on women and men. The secretariat hopes to be able to publish it as an ECE contribution to the World Conference.

International Year of the Family (IYF)

27. By its resolution 44/82 the Assembly proclaimed 1994 the International Year of the Family. By its resolution 46/92 the Assembly invited the regional commissions to exert all possible efforts in preparation for the observance of the Year and to cooperate in achieving its objectives. The ECE secretariat

has submitted a written contribution to the European and North American Preparatory Meeting for the IYF which will be held in Malta in April 1993.

World Summit for Social Development (1995)

28. Assembly resolution 47/92 convening a world summit for social development requests the regional commissions to include the world summit in their programme of work for 1993, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The secretariat has prepared a report on the activities of the Commission which are of a socio-economic nature.

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (1996)

29. Assembly resolution 47/180 convening the Habitat II Conference inter alia invites regional organizations to participate actively in the preparatory process. The Committee on Human Settlements could be invited to consider the provisions of the resolution and prepare recommendations for an ECE contribution to the Conference. The ECE secretariat participated in the first preparatory meeting for the Conference held in New York from 1-5 March 1993.

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

30. The ECE will publish the outcome of its work on rehabilitation engineering as a contribution to mark the end of the United Nations Decade (1983-1992). This work took the form of a series of workshops which were organized in Washington DC (USA) in June 1990, in Fagernes (Norway), in May 1991 and in Trebon-Spa (Czech Republic) in May 1992. The last workshop was followed by an International Seminar on Rehabilitation Engineering on 28 May 1992.

United Nations International Comparison Programme (ICP)

31. Within the context of the (ICP) the ECE is involved in a joint venture with the European Community, OECD and Austria which enables prices and national accounts (for example GDP per head) to be compared across the world. The joint venture covers a number of African countries in addition to most ECE and OECD countries. The World Bank is also a major contributor to the programme.

32. Development work by the ECE secretariat on statistics of the hidden economy, as part of the development of national accounting in general, is another contribution to the global exercise.

Drug abuse control

33. In the framework of the United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control, ECE monitors abuses of existing Customs and transit Conventions by drug smugglers with a view to implementing new technical and administrative measures to prevent such abuses.